

# Network

Set up the default host name of the machine as well as `localhost`:

**NOTE:** `sebin-desktop` is used as an example here. Set `$HOSTNAME` to whatever you like.

```
# Define an environment variable containing the desired hostname
export HOSTNAME='sebin-desktop'

# Set the hostname of the machine
echo "$HOSTNAME" > /etc/hostname

# Set localhost to resolve to the machine's loopback address
echo "127.0.0.1 localhost" >> /etc/hosts
echo "::1 localhost" >> /etc/hosts
echo "127.0.1.1 $HOSTNAME.localdomain $HOSTNAME" >> /etc/hosts
```

## Set wireless region

If your machine has Wi-Fi it is advisable to set the region for wireless radio waves to comply with local regulations:

```
# Install crda
pacman -S iw

# Set the wireless region, e.g. Germany
iw reg set DE
```

## Network manager

Previously we installed NetworkManager as our default network mangaging software. GNOME and KDE have out of the box support for managing network connections in their settings dialogs in a graphical manner. Both rely on NetworkManager.

Enable NetworkManager to start at boot:

```
systemctl enable NetworkManager
```

## Using `iwd` as the Wi-Fi backend (optional)

By default NetworkManager uses `wpa_supplicant` for managing Wi-Fi connections.

`iwd` (iNet wireless daemon) is a wireless daemon for Linux written by Intel. The core goal of the project is to optimize resource utilization by not depending on any external libraries and instead utilizing features provided by the Linux Kernel to the maximum extent possible.

To enable the experimental iwd backend, first install `iwd` and then create the following configuration file:

```
mkdir /etc/NetworkManager/conf.d
nano /etc/NetworkManager/conf.d/wifi_backend.conf
```

With the following contents:

```
[device]
wifi.backend=iwd
```

## `systemd-resolved` for DNS name resolution

`systemd-resolved` is a `systemd` service that provides network name resolution to local applications via a D-Bus interface, the `resolve` NSS service, and a local DNS stub listener on `127.0.0.53`.

Benefits of using `systemd-resolved` include:

- `resolvectl` as the primary single command for interfacing with the network name resolver service
- A system-wide DNS cache for speeding up subsequent name resolution requests
- Split DNS when using VPNs, which can help in preventing DNS leaks when connecting to multiple VPNs (See [Fedora Wiki](#) for a detailed explanation why this is important)
- Integrated DNSSEC capabilities to verify the authenticity and integrity of name resolution requests, e.g. to prevent cache poisoning/DNS hijacking

- DNS over TLS for further securing name resolution requests by encrypting them, improving privacy (not to be confused with DNS over HTTPS)

To use `systemd-resolved` enable the respective unit:

```
systemctl enable systemd-resolved
```

To provide domain name resolution for software that reads `/etc/resolv.conf` directly, such as web browsers and GnuPG, `systemd-resolved` has four different modes for handling the file

- stub
- static
- uplink
- foreign

The recommended mode is stub, which uses `/run/systemd/resolve/stub-resolv.conf`, and contains the local stub `127.0.0.53` as the only DNS server and a list of search domains.

#### **ATTENTION:** A few notes about setting this up:

- Failure to properly configure `/etc/resolv.conf` will result in broken DNS resolution!
- Attempting to symlink `/etc/resolv.conf` whilst inside `arch-chroot` will not be possible, since the file is bind-mounted from the archiso live system. In this case, create the symlink from *outside* `arch-chroot` :

```
In -sf ../run/systemd/resolve/stub-resolv.conf /mnt/etc/resolv.conf
```

- Some DHCP and VPN clients use the `resolvconf` program to set name server and search domains (see [this list](#)). For these, you also need to install the `systemd-resolvconf` package to provide a `/usr/bin/resolvconf` symlink.

This propagates the `systemd-resolved` managed configuration to all clients. To use it, replace `/etc/resolv.conf` with a symbolic link to it:

```
In -sf ../run/systemd/resolve/stub-resolv.conf /etc/resolv.conf
```

When set up this way, NetworkManager automatically picks up `systemd-resolved` for network name resolution.

## Fallback DNS servers

If `systemd-resolved` does not receive DNS server addresses from the network manager and no DNS servers are configured manually then `systemd-resolved` falls back to the fallback DNS addresses to

ensure that DNS resolution always works.

The fallback order is:

1. Cloudflare
2. Quad9 (without filtering and without DNSSEC)
3. Google

**ATTENTION:** Depending on your use-case, you might not want to route all your DNS traffic through the pre-determined fallback servers for privacy reasons. Do your own research on fallback DNS servers that you want to trust.

Fallback addresses can be manually set in a drop-in config file, e.g.

```
/etc/systemd/resolved.conf.d/fallback_dns.conf:
```

```
[Resolve]
FallbackDNS=127.0.0.1 ::1
```

To disable the fallback DNS functionality set the `FallbackDNS` option without specifying any addresses:

```
[Resolve]
FallbackDNS=
```

## DNSSEC

**WARNING:** DNSSEC support in `systemd-resolved` is considered experimental and incomplete.

DNSSEC is a suite of extensions to the DNS system. Benefits of utilizing DNSSEC include authentication and data integrity, *but not encryption*. For actually encrypting your DNS traffic, see the section below.

`systemd-resolved` can be configured to use DNSSEC for validation of DNS requests. It can be configured in three modes:

Setting	Description
<code>allow-downgrade</code>	Validate DNSSEC only if the upstream DNS server supports it
<code>true</code>	Always validate DNSSEC, breaking DNS resolution if the server does not support it
<code>false</code>	Disable DNSSEC validation entirely

Set up DNSSEC in a drop-in config file, e.g. `/etc/systemd/resolved.conf.d/dnssec.conf`:

```
[Resolve]
DNSSEC=allow-downgrade
```

## DNS over TLS

DNS over TLS is a security protocol for encrypting DNS queries and responses via Transport Layer Security (TLS), thereby increasing privacy and security by preventing eavesdropping and manipulation of DNS requests in man-in-the-middle attack scenarios.

DNS over TLS in `systemd-resolved` is disabled by default. To enable validation of your DNS provider's server certificate, include their hostname in the `DNS` setting in the format `ip_address#hostname` and set `DNSOverTLS` to one of three modes:

Setting	Description
<code>opportunistic</code>	Attempt DNS over TLS when possible and fall back to unencrypted DNS if the server does not support it
<code>true</code>	Always use DNS over TLS, breaking resolution if the server does not support it
<code>false</code>	Disable DNS over TLS entirely

**ATTENTION:** When setting `DNSOverTLS=opportunistic` `systemd-resolved` will try to use DNS over TLS and if the server does not support it fall back to regular DNS. Note, however, that this opens you to "downgrade" attacks, where an attacker might be able to trigger a downgrade to non-encrypted mode by synthesizing a response that suggests DNS over TLS was not supported.

**WARNING:** If setting `DNSOverTLS=yes` and the server provided in `DNS=` does not support DNS over TLS *all DNS requests will fail!*

Set up DNS over TLS in a drop-in config file, e.g. `/etc/systemd/resolved.conf.d/dns_over_tls.conf`:

```
[Resolve]
DNS=9.9.9.9#dns.quad9.net 149.112.112.112#dns.quad9.net [2620:fe::fe]#dns.quad9.net
[2620:fe::9]#dns.quad9.net
DNSOverTLS=yes
```

## Multicast DNS

`systemd-resolved` is capable of working as a multicast DNS (mDNS) resolver and responder. The resolver provides hostname resolution using a "*hostname.local*" naming scheme.

mDNS support in `systemd-resolved` is enabled by default. For a given connection, mDNS will only be activated if both mDNS in `systemd-resolved` is enabled, and if the configuration for the currently active network manager enables mDNS for the connection.

The `MulticastDNS` setting in `systemd-resolved` can be set to one of the following:

Setting	Description
<code>resolve</code>	Only enables resolution support, but responding is disabled
<code>true</code>	Enables full mDNS responder and resolver support
<code>false</code>	Disables both mDNS responder and resolver

**ATTENTION:** If you plan on using `systemd-resolved` as mDNS resolver and responder consider the following:

- Some desktop environments have the `avahi` package as a dependency. To prevent conflicts, `disable` or `mask` both `avahi-daemon.service` and `avahi-daemon.socket`
- If you plan on using a firewall, make sure UDP port `5353` is open

To enable mDNS for a connection managed by NetworkManager tell `nmcli` to modify an existing connection:

```
nmcli connection modify CONNECTION_NAME connection.mdns yes
```

**TIP:** The default for all NetworkManager connections can be set by creating a configuration file in `/etc/NetworkManager/conf.d/` and setting `connection.mdns=2` (equivalent to "yes") in the `[connection]` section.

```
[connection]
connection.mdns=2
```

## Avahi

Avahi implements zero-configuration networking (zeroconf), allowing for multicast DNS/DNS-SD service discovery. This enables programs to publish and discover services and hosts running on a

local network, e.g. network file sharing servers, remote audio devices, network printers, etc.

Some desktop environments pull in the `avahi` package as a dependency. It enables their file manager to scan the network for services and make them easily accessible.

**ATTENTION:** If you plan on using `avahi` as mDNS resolver and responder consider the following:

- You need to disable mDNS in `systemd-resolved`. You can do so in a drop-in config file, e.g. `/etc/systemd/resolved.conf.d/mdns.conf` :

```
[Resolve]
MulticastDNS=false
```

- If you plan on using a firewall, make sure UDP port `5353` is open

Avahi provides local hostname resolution using a "`hostname.local`" naming scheme. To use it, install the `avahi` and `nss-mdns` package and enable Avahi:

```
pacman -S avahi nss-mdns
systemctl enable avahi-daemon
```

Then, edit the file `/etc/nsswitch.conf` and change the `hosts` line to include `mdns_minimal` `[NOTFOUND=return]` before `resolve` and `dns`:

```
hosts: mymachines mdns_minimal [NOTFOUND=return] resolve [!UNAVAIL=return] files myhostname dns
```

To discover services running in your local network:

```
avahi-browse --all --ignore-local --resolve --terminate
```

To query a specific host for the services it advertises:

```
avahi-resolve-host-name hostname.local
```

Avahi also includes the `avahi-discover` graphical utility that lists the various services on your network.

---

Revision #7

Created 12 February 2022 00:56:17 by Sebin

Updated 6 March 2024 09:57:15 by Sebin